

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Joint Broward Water Resources Task Force and Technical Team**

Friday, May 1, 2009, 11:00 AM

Broward County Government Center West  
1 N. University Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hearing Room  
Plantation, Florida 33324

#### **Summary:**

The meeting began at 11:07 AM. Chair Estenoz indicated that the Task Force was short one member for a quorum, but anticipated having one shortly. She welcomed new attendees including Vice Mayor Joe Varsallone and Fort Lauderdale Vice Mayor Charlotte Rodstrom. The Chair made reference to the May 15 Reuse Symposium at the Signature Grand and encouraged audience attendance. Roll call was then called (see attendance below).

The Chair relayed a suggestion to staff to make sure handouts identify which agenda item they belong to. She then stated the meeting objectives were to revisit the C-51 project briefly as a recap in preparation for the June 5 joint meeting with the Palm Beach Water Resources Task Force (WRTF). The Chair also indicated that in the second part of the meeting would be focused upon other regional projects that the Tech Team had been exploring.

Mr. Perez gave the Tech Team report. He referred to the proposed regional project concepts matrix that had been provided as a meeting handout and indicated, for the purpose of devising the matrix, the County had been split into three separate study areas. He indicated the matrix includes strategic near term and long terms projects, and opportunities for collaborative partnerships.

Chair Estenoz then introduced the first speaker for the day, Mr. Ken Todd, Water Resources Manager with Palm Beach County. Mr. Todd introduced himself as the liaison for the Palm Beach WRTF, which is similar in function to the Broward WRTF Tech Team. Mr. Todd began by briefly discussing the regional C-51 Reservoir project, its location, and how it would function as alternative water supply. He discussed some key points with regard to the project that need to be addressed, including whether the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) would allow source shifting from Palm Beach County to Broward County and whether this "cascading" effect would be acceptable. He suggested that the term "cascading" might be an inappropriate descriptor for the project process as it does not include the actual movement of water as a cascade from Palm Beach County to Broward County. He also mentioned the issue of whether the Lake Worth Drainage District would accept the C-51 water and pointed to a study of whether the L-40 Canal would be an appropriate mechanism to deliver water. He mentioned the uncertainty of which entity will handle operation and maintenance for the project and the associated costs. Mr. Todd then shared the Palm Beach WRTF's comments on the C-51 Phase II Scope of Work as presented at their April 16 meeting. Among the comments discussed were concerns by the Lake Worth Drainage District about hydraulic capacity and water quality; the eminent domain of the land purchase; and policy decisions that SFWMD indicated needed to be part of the next level of study. The Chair then pointed to the proposed regional project matrix which includes a cost estimate for

producing water through the C-51 project that is significantly less than the other proposed AWS options. She noted this is a reason why the Broward WRTF is spending a significant amount of time discussing it. Mayor Kaplan pointed to the timing of projects in the matrix and how that could influence a decision to move forward. Mr. Todd continued his presentation and pointed out that the C-51 Reservoir would be like an in-ground swimming pool as it was in a tight geologic formation. He then discussed the steps the Palm Beach Task Force had taken with regard to the C-51 project which included looking at several key issues (“deal killers”) and development of a Phase IIA study before moving forward, including the update of raw water demand projections, addressing water conveyance in more detail, evaluation of geotechnical conditions, and a project cost-effectiveness analysis. Mr. Todd then took questions and Mr. Brian Shields, with Palm Beach County Utilities, assisted in answering them. There were several questions asked about utility participation and how the costs for the project would be allocated. Further discussion ensued.

The next presentation was by John Mulliken, with the SFWMD, who shared District comments on the C-51 Phase II Scope of Work. He indicated that the District concurs with a number of the proposed tasks in the study, but the District would like to see a water quality analysis included in the follow-up Phase IIA study. He mentioned there are limitations on what can be done to move water and the extent to which water could be moved. He then discussed how water could be moved to the Lake Worth Drainage District; water quality issues associated with moving water into the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge; utilities eligible for potential allocation increases; the type of water quality treatment that might be needed; geological considerations; the level of project detail needed to incorporate it into the Regional Water Supply Plan; and what additional analyses would be needed. Mr. Mulliken then discussed other key issues including updated cost estimates for the project; the involvement of other agencies in the project including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, EPA, FDEP, and the Lake Worth Drainage District; and reconsideration of the L-40 levee study and potential delays there. He concluded by saying that future phases should consider alternative entities to own and operate the facilities given current District priorities and funding limitations. There was some discussion of offsets, how wet season and dry season demands differ, and how District policy would address these issues. The Chair mentioned that offsets are not just a “ledger” issue and it was important to look at where water is generated and where water is ultimately put in the system. Discussion followed.

Randy Brown, with Pompano Beach Utilities, presented Tech Team comments on the C-51 Phase II Scope of Work. He mentioned that the Broward Tech Team voted to support the document with the caveat that Broward utilities get together to develop a list of potential issues associated with it so they may be incorporated into one comprehensive study, to avoid having to do further studies. He encouraged members to support the Phase IIA follow-up study. There was a question on what the Phase IIA study would cost and it was indicated that the Broward Tech Team was in the process of investigating that issue and working to refine the scope.

At this point, the Chair indicated the WRTF would now look at the other proposed regional water supply projects as presented on the regional projects matrix. John Crouse presented the Region 1 projects for northeast and central Broward County. The Region 1 group looked at five concepts, expansion of the north regional wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) reclaimed water system into Coconut Creek and other areas; expansion of Pompano Beach reclaimed water and wholesale to Lighthouse Point with distribution system to Deerfield

Beach; creation of a saltwater intrusion barrier; construction of Floridan Aquifer systems; and recharge to the Middle Floridan Aquifer. Mr. Crouse presented a snapshot of where we are now with respect to reuse with about 50% of the refuse flow generated in northern Broward County being reused at this time. He then shared maps and ongoing reuse projects and plans. He went over each of the conceptual projects in the matrix. He discussed the issue of larger plant systems resulting in savings and pipe replacement costs. Mr. Crouse discussed several conceptual potential plant expansions as regional Floridan projects, and discussed a concept for recharge of the Middle Floridan Aquifer with ocean outfall discharge water. With respect to the latter project, he concluded by saying that they still needed to look at costs and indicated some other constraints including the “yuck factor” for reuse water, dry season and wet season needs. There was some discussion about water quality standards applicable to waters discharged to the Floridan Aquifer .

Mr. Castro then presented the Region 2 conceptual projects for southwest and central Broward County. He discussed two projects which he referred to as water augmentation projects. The first was a reuse option between Lauderhill and Sunrise which includes expansion of the Sunrise Springtree WWTP. The project would have a high initial capital cost, high operation and maintenance costs, and high distribution system costs. There was a discussion of the costs of extending reuse to neighborhoods and what is involved from a construction perspective. Mr. Castro then presented a new sub-regional Floridan reverse osmosis water treatment plant project at Park City (currently out of service) which could produce water at about \$7 per gallon. He noted that this project is already included in City plans and approved at 7 MGD, and it would be a good project on which to partner. It was noted that Cooper City is re-examining their demand needs and may not need to partner on this project. Mr. Castro mentioned that there are still a lot of issues concerning interlocal agreements. There has been a discussion of consideration of a scalping plant for reuse water for irrigation. There was further discussion about interlocal arrangements and governance issues. Mr. Perez offered that the governance issues would be left to elected officials. The Tech Team only developed the regional project concepts from a technical perspective. Mr. Perez noted that the Tech Team was just providing the WRTF with engineering solutions. Dr. Jurado offered an example of a project that yielded greater operation and maintenance cost savings. There was also mention of consideration of miniature package plants in certain locations. There was more discussion about governance. There was a question about how wise it was to go to the Floridan Aquifer, a non-renewable source as opposed to the Biscayne Aquifer and a discussion of the Floridan model. In recognition that the meeting was slated to end in five minutes, the Chair then asked if the membership could stay an additional 15 minutes, to which there was agreement. Dr. Jurado discussed the technical tools the County has developed as part of the County’s Integrated Water Resources Master Management Plan and she offered that the intent is to look at where these conceptual projects could be integrated into the plan. There was further discussion of governance structures.

Having reached quorum, the Chair then called for approval of the April WRTF meeting minutes. Following approval of the minutes, the Chair turned the floor over to Albert Perez, Chair of the Tech Team, for presentation of Region 3 conceptual projects for southeast Broward County. Mr. Perez began by presenting a concept that includes an existing regional facility becoming a wholesale provider. He explained Hollywood’s ability to do that and discussions with potential regional partners have been held, specifically Hallandale Beach and Dania Beach.

Mr. Perez shared a graphic on economies of scale, explaining how it was more cost effective to expand a plant with existing capacity than to build a new facility of comparable size. He then discussed the near term benefits of a Floridan project, issues requiring resolution, and costs. The next concept Mr. Perez discussed was a regional reuse project, including options and costs which are significant. He then wrapped up his presentation with discussion of how a Floridan Aquifer recharge project would work, and benefits, issues requiring resolution, and costs.

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

## ATTENDANCE

### **Task Force:**

Douglas Bell, Chair, Central Broward Water Control District Board of Commissioners  
Richard Blattner, Commissioner, City of Hollywood  
Peter Bober, Mayor, City of Hollywood  
Joy Cooper, Mayor, City of Hallandale Beach  
Shannon Estenoz, Governing Board Member, South Florida Water Management District  
Beth Flansbaum-Talabisco, Mayor, City of Tamarac  
Tom Good, Treasurer, South Broward Drainage District  
Glen Hanks, Secretary, Coral Springs Improvement District Board of Supervisors  
Richard Kaplan, Mayor, City of Lauderhill  
Jack McCluskey, Commissioner, City of Pembroke Pines  
Charlotte Rodstrom, Vice Mayor, City of Fort Lauderdale  
Donald Rosen, Deputy Mayor, City of Sunrise  
Susan Starkey, Councilmember, Town of Davie  
Joe Varsallone, Vice Mayor, City of Margate (for Lisa Aronson)

### **Technical Team:**

Hank Breitenkam, Director of Utilities, City of Plantation  
Linda Brien, Administrator, Water Facilities Program, FDEP Southeast District  
Randy Brown, Utilities Director, City of Pompano Beach  
Hector Castor, Director of Utilities, City of Sunrise  
John Crouse (for Alan Garcia)  
Heather Cunniff, City Planner, City of Lauderhill  
Jean Dupuis (for Raj Verma)  
Ray Gagnon, Director of Utilities, City of Tamarac  
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Division  
Julie Leonard, Assistant Utility Services Director, City of Fort Lauderdale  
Joe McLaughlin, City of Pembroke Pines  
John Mulliken, Director, SFWMD Water Supply Planning Division  
Albert Perez, Director of Public Utilities, City of Hollywood  
Leo Schwartzberg, Director, South Broward Drainage District  
Bruce Taylor, Director, Town of Davie Utilities Operations  
David Womacks, Director, City of Oakland Park Public Works

**Other Attendees:**

Neil Buckeridge, Town of Davie  
Ed Dion, Nabors Giblin  
Celia Earle, Malcolm Pirnie  
Toni Edwards, Broward County NRPMD  
Nigel Grace, Malcolm Pirnie  
Fran Henderson, Broward County WWS  
Steve Joseph, City of Hollywood  
Katie Lelis, Broward County NRPMD  
Keith London, Commissioner, City of Hallandale Beach  
Maria Loucraft, City of Pompano Beach  
Mark Moore, City of Hollywood  
Rudy Rudolph, Broward County NRPMD  
Brian Shields, Palm Beach County Utilities  
Charlotte St. John, Broward County WWS  
Ken Todd, Palm Beach County  
Chris Van Vliet, City of Lauderdale Lakes  
Kevin Vought, DHI  
Michael Zygnerski, Broward County NRPMD